

## COMMANDING OFFICER, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 31 HAZING POLICY LETTER



There are many time honored customs and traditions in the Marine Corps that celebrate both personal and professional achievements; hail and farewell, promotion, graduation, mess night, dining in/out, winging, completion of a career enhancing event, checking in to a new unit are all great examples. These events serve to enhance morale, esprit de corps, and unit cohesiveness. Unfortunately, a small number of Marines believe it is an accepted norm to incorporate hazing into these celebrations. It is not.

Hazing is defined as conduct whereby a military member or members without proper authority causes another military member to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful. Hazing **can include** (and is not limited to) any form of initiation or congratulatory act that involves physically striking another to inflict pain, piercing the skin in any manner, verbally berating, encouraging the excessive consumption of alcohol, illegal or dangerous acts, striking, branding, taping, tattooing, shaving, greasing, and excessive physical exercise beyond what is required to meet standards. It is not limited to senior-subordinate relationships – it can occur peer to peer and subordinate to senior. Hazing **does not include** command authorized or operational activities, training, administrative corrective measures, extra military instruction, athletic events, and command PT.

### MAG-31 Hazing Policy

1. Hazing is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
2. Every Marine and Sailor of MAG-31 will familiarize themselves with MCO 1700.28A.
3. No Marine, Sailor, or Civilian may engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed on them.
4. No one, by act, word, deed, or omission, can condone or ignore hazing if they know or reasonably should have known that hazing would or did occur.
5. Everyone is responsible to ensure hazing does not occur, and if it does, everyone has a responsibility to report it.
6. Commanders or the senior Marine present are responsible to ensure all events conducted within their command or with their attendance, comply with this policy.
7. Any violation, attempted violation or solicitation to get another to violate this order, will be subject to potential administrative or disciplinary action.
8. Reprisal actions against any victims or witnesses of hazing incidents are strictly prohibited.

**Hazing is contrary to our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. No one assaults, hazes, or messes with our Marines, Sailors and Families...NO ONE.**

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael S. Cedarholm".

MICHAEL S. CEDERHOLM  
Colonel, United States Marine Corps